

FACT SHEET



**South 4th Street Site
Clear Lake, Iowa**

June 2000

INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will conduct air sampling at the South 4th Street site in Clear Lake, Iowa, the week of June 26, 2000. Ground water and soil contaminated with perchloroethylene (PCE) have been identified in downtown Clear Lake on the east side of First Avenue South between South 4th Street and South 3rd Street in an area of businesses and residences.

SITE ACTIVITIES

EPA continues to evaluate whether the PCE contamination poses a threat to human health and the environment. As part of this evaluation, EPA will collect air samples from buildings located above the ground water and soil contamination. The purpose of conducting this sampling is to determine whether PCE vapors are migrating upward into the buildings.

EPA is also studying the construction of the municipal water supply well located southwest of the site between Shore and Lake View Drive, and the hydrogeology of the area to determine the likelihood that the contamination would ever impact the municipal well. This well is one of three municipal wells that serves the city of Clear Lake. The municipal well, located several blocks southwest of where the PCE was found, pumps water out of a water-bearing zone 150 feet deep. The PCE contamination was found in a water-bearing zone 15 feet deep. No PCE was found in the municipal wells when EPA sampled them in November 1999.

EPA will review the information from the air sampling and the hydrogeology study and then determine whether further action is required at the site.

SITE BACKGROUND

PCE was found in the ground water in November 1998 during an environmental assessment conducted for the Clear Lake Bakery. In March 1999, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) sampled ground water from a monitoring well located on the west side of the bakery garage and found PCE present. IDNR referred the site to EPA later in 1999.

In November 1999, EPA conducted sampling and identified PCE in the soil and ground water

with the highest levels of contamination near the Cottage Cleaners building. PCE was also found in the sewer system.

PCE, also known as tetrachloroethylene or perc, is a chlorinated hydrocarbon solvent commonly used in dry-cleaning fluid, spot removers, and degreasers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA has prepared a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Report that describes the work done at the site and the investigation findings. A copy of this report is available for public review at the Clear Lake Public Library, 200 North 4th Street, Clear Lake, Iowa. If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

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